

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05498 270704Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 /072 W
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P R 261528Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7418
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: ROW ERUPTS OVER LEAK OF BEGIN PEACE PLAN

1. A SERIOUS ROW HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN BEGIN AND THE
OPPOSITION--THE FIRST SINCE THE NEW GOVERNMENT TOOK
OFFICE-- OVER THE LEAK OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S "PEACE
PLAN." BEGIN GAVE THE ISSUE MAJOR IMPORTANCE BY DEVOTING
A LARGE SHARE OF HIS AIRPORT ARRIVAL REMARKS JULY 25
TO ATTACKING OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF THE KNESSET FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTED FOR LEAKING HIS PROPOSALS
TO THE PRESS BEFORE HE HAD PRESENTED THEM TO PRESIDENT
CARTER. DECLARING THAT NEVER WHILE IN OPPOSITION HAD
HE BETRAYED THE CONFIDENCES OF THE COMMITTEE (OF WHICH
HE HAD LONG BEEN A MEMBER), BEGIN CHARGED ITS MEMBERS
WITH "PUBLICIZING THIS DOCUMENT TO THE ARABS," AND
VOWED THAT "WE SHALL LEARN A LESSON."

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 05498 270704Z

2. ALIGNMENT LEADERS HAVE HEATEDLY REJECTED THE
ACCUSATION AND HAVE INSINUATED THAT THE LEAK CAME
FROM THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF. OPPOSITION HEAD SHIMON
PERES CRITICIZED BEGIN FOR GENERATING TENSION BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT AND THE KNESSET. FORMER CHAIRMAN OF
THE COMMITTEE, ALIGNMENT MK YITZHAK NAVON, NOTED THAT

DETAILS OF THE PLAN APPEARED IN THE PRESS EVEN BEFORE
IT WAS PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE.

3. IN HIS VERY FIRST CABINET MEETING BEGIN INSISTED
THAT HE WOULD COUNTENANCE NO LEAKS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT
AND HAS SINCE MADE THE SUBJECT SOMETHING OF A FETISH
OF HIS ADMINISTRATION. HOWEVER, HIS ATTACKS ON THE
OPPOSITION SEEMS DISINGENUOUS. AS SUGGESTED BY NAVON,
MATTI GOLAN'S DESCRIPTION OF THE "PEACE PLAN" WAS
PUBLICIZED BY HAARETZ THE MORNING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE
WAS BIEFED BY FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN. WHAT IS VIEWED
AS BEGIN'S OVER-REACTION APPEARS TO BE AIMED AT THE
CRITICISM OF HIS PLAN BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS (THE CRITICISM
WAS ALSO LEAKED) MORE THAN AT THE LEAK OF THE PLAN
ITSELF. IN ANY EVENT, THE HARSHNESS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S
WORDS AT THE AIRPORT SURPRISED OBSERVERS AND WAS UN-
EXPECTED BY THE OPPOSITION. IT WAS A DECIDED CHANGE
FROM THE CALM, DIGNIFIED STATESMAN-LIKE POSTURE BEGIN
HAS CULTIVATED SINCE BECOMING PRIME MINISTER.
ALIGNMENT MK YOSSI SARID REMARKED TO US THAT
BEGIN'S ATTACK UNDERMINED HIS OWN CREDIBILITY AND
MAKES IT EASIER FOR THE ALIGNMENT TO GO ON A
PARTISAN OFFENSIVE.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: DISPUTES, NEWS LEAKS, PEACE PLANS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D770267-0594
Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770716/aaaaanzr.tel
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Litigation History:
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Review Release Date: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, IS, (BEGIN, MENAHEM)
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